

REMARKS

This Reply is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated January 23, 2008. Claims 1-13 and 15-37 remain present in this application. In the present Office Action: claims 1-10, 13-22, 25-34, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,993 (hereinafter “Kumar”) in view of “The Physiology of the Grid” (hereinafter “Foster”) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,336 (hereinafter “Schneider”); and claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 35, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,973,493 (hereinafter “Slaughter”) in view of Foster.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 11, 13, 23, 25, 35, and 37 and dependent claims 3, 10, 12, 15, 16, 22, 24, 27, 29, 34, and 36 for clarification of Applicants’ claimed subject matter. No new matter has been entered with the amendments to the claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the claim amendments, as the amendments put the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

At the outset, Applicants note that the term “operational rule” defines how a service request is handled or processed (see, for example, page 8, lines 1-3) and may come in various forms. For example, a first service node may provide a first operational rule to a second service node that defines how a first service request from the first service node (to the second service node) is processed by the second service node. Similarly, a third service node may provide a second operational rule to the second service node that defines how a second service request from the third service node (to the second service node) is processed by the second service node.

With respect to the rejection of independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 37, Applicants respectfully submit that Kumar is merely directed to a function that tests returned electronic documents from a first search (initiated using a first search function and first search criteria) for a second search function. When the second search function is found, a form of the first search criteria is transferred to the second search function and documents (if any) that are found by the second search function are transferred to the first search function (see, for example, column 27, line 26 through column 28, line 16). This does not teach or suggest transmitting an operational rule from a first service node to a second service node that dictates how service requests from the first service node to the second service node are handled (processed). Moreover, the fact that Foster discloses an Open Grid Service Architecture (OGSA) and Schneider discloses the implementation of access filters (that limit access to information) also does not teach or suggest

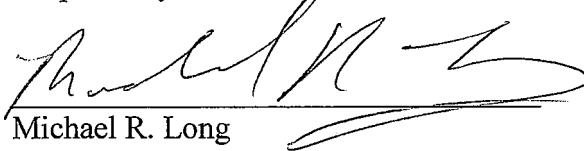
transmitting an operational rule from a first service node to a second service node (OGSA or otherwise) that dictates how service requests from the first service node to the second service node are handled (processed). As neither Kumar, Schneider, or Foster (alone or in combination) teach transmitting operational rules (that indicate how service requests are handled) from one node to another node, Applicants independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 are allowable over the applied combination.

With respect to the rejection of independent claims 11, 23, and 35, Applicants note that Slaughter is directed to negotiating how a service is provided between clients (see, for example, column 34, lines 43-48). This does also not teach or suggest transmitting an operational rule from a first service node to a second service node that dictates how a service request from the first service node to the second service node is handled.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' independent claims 1, 11, 13, 23, 25, 35 and 37 are allowable over the applied art of record. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-10, 12, 15-22, 24, 26-34, and 36 are also allowable for at least the reason that the claims depend on allowable claims.

Prior to action on this Reply, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner. The undersigned attorney may be reached at (512) 617-5521.

Respectfully submitted,



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